

VirVIRGINIA HUD LINES

MAY 2003

E-Briefs from the Richmond Office of the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development

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SuperNOFA STARTS!

Saying it reflects efforts “to refine the application process to make it less of a burden” so that HUD and its partners “can more effectively serve those in need,” HUD Secretary Mel Martinez launched the Department’s “simplified” fiscal year 2003 SuperNOFA (Notice of Funding Availability) on Monday, April 21st. This year’s SuperNOFA will competitively award \$2.3 billion in 43 housing, community and economic development programs nationwide. Last year, Virginia local governments, housing authorities and non-profits won more than 40 SuperNOFA grants. Rules for the 2003 SuperNOFA appeared in the Friday, April 25th *Federal Register* and application materials are online at www.hud.gov or www.hud.gov/virginia. Questions? Call 800/842-2610 and speak with Lee Jones, ext.3743, or Anne Davis, ext. 3741.

QUOTE TO NOTE

“The Fair Housing Act of 1968 has helped open doors of opportunity for countless families. Since its passage, America has made significant progress in achieving equal housing access for all individuals. Despite this progress, more work remains in our struggle to achieve equality and racial justice. Prejudice and discriminatory practices in housing still exist in America. . . As a Nation, and as individuals, we must be vigilant in responding to discrimination wherever we find it and ensuring that minority families have access to housing.” – *President George W. Bush in Proclaiming April as Fair Housing Month*

!!! NEWS FLASH !!!

May 1st, 2003 *Federal Register* publishes final rule prohibiting property flipping of FHA-insured properties. To view rule, please visit http://www.archives.gov/federal_register/the_federal_register/the_federal_register.html

BRIEF BRIEFS

HUD’s Homeownership Customer Service Center in Richmond responds to 200,000th telephone inquiry. . . Virginia Housing Study Commission says its May 19th meeting in Richmond will discuss 2003 work plan expected to focus on visitability, mold and mildew, elevator safety and Statewide Housing Assessment. . . Mountain Shelter of Wytheville goes on-line with e-letter at www.mountainshelter.org. . . National Credit Union Foundation announces grants of up to \$75,000 for “cooperative development and payday lending alternative projects” at <http://www.ncuf.coop/>. . . Work starts on \$13 million transformation of two warehouses in downtown Lynchburg into Bluff Walk Center, a project partially funded by HUD Brownfields grant and Section 108 loan. . . Virginia Association of Realtors says e-mail networks will help state’s Amber Alert program. . . Danville City Council okays \$200,000 in HUD funds to Downtown Danville Association to renovate vacant buildings. . . Details on \$2,500 “greenways” planning grants from Eastman Kodak, Conservation Fund and National Geographic Society are available at <http://conservationfund.org>. . . HUD extends public comment period on proposed Public Housing Assessment System until June 8th, 2003. . . April 4th *Federal Register* announces availability of \$40 million in HOPE VI demolition grants with applications due June 3rd. . . Virginia Federation of Housing Counselors holds annual meeting May 5th and 6th at Radisson in Williamsburg with VHDA to train and certify counselors on May 3rd and 4th. . . Historic Resources Board okays new historic districts in Bowling Green, Prince George County, Norfolk, Suffolk, Chesapeake, Arlington County, Luray & Frederick County. . . EPA and Department of Energy honor HUD for promoting ENERGY STAR products. . . Amherst County Housing & Community Development Foundation is launched to “help low and moderate income families find safe, clean, affordable housing”. . . VHDA sets May 2nd for grand opening of newly-renovated, 216-unit HUD-assisted Midlothian Village Apartments in Richmond.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Again this year, HUD is broadcasting detailed workshops on the 43 SuperNOFA funding opportunities via the Internet and satellites. In addition, the Webcast archive at www.hud.gov should have Webcasts of the workshops archived within 36 hours of broadcast. “Real time” broadcasts on the Rural Housing and Economic Development, Youthbuild and Housing Choice Voucher Family Self Sufficiency Program Coordinators programs air May 5th. Community Development work study and doctoral programs air May 7th. Mainstream Housing Opportunities for People with Disabilities will be aired on May 7th. Fair Housing Initiatives air May 8th. Healthy Homes/Lead Hazard Control air May 9th. HOME, CHDO and McKinney Act technical assistance air May 12th. ROSS programs air May 13th. University programs air May 14th. Section 202 and Section 811 air May 15th. HOPWA Project Renewals air May 16th. Housing Counseling Programs air on May 21st. Assisted Living Conversions and Service Coordinators in Multifamily Housing air on May 22nd. Self Help Homeownership and Brownfields Economic Development air May 27th. A continuum of Care overview airs May 28th. And Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS headline the broadcast on May 29th. Questions? Call Lee Jones at 804/771-2100, x3743, or Anne Davis, x3741..

BRIEF BRIEFS TOO

HUD Secretary Martinez debuts national TV and print campaign to promote fair housing. . . Blue Ridge Housing breaks ground for Aspen Grove, a 10-house “blended income” homeownership community in northwest Roanoke funded, in part, by HUD’s HOME program. . . Governor Warner names state Social Services Commissioner Maurice Jones to chair Urban Policy Task Force to report by September 30th on “how to make our urban areas even better places to live”. . . Virginia chapter of American Planning Association honors Susheela Shende with its annual Planning Leadership award. . . April 24th *Federal Register* publishes Final Rule extending protections to tenant groups in state-financed, HUD-assisted multi-family complexes. . . VHDA okays \$25.9 million for acquisition and rehabilitation of some 650 rental units in Chesapeake, Fredericksburg, Galax, Norfolk, Pulaski and Richmond. . . Fan District Foundation’s efforts to restore area housing is featured in April 27th *Richmond Times-Dispatch*. . . Space still available for Better Housing Coalition’s spring tour on May 8th of its developments in Jefferson Mews, Winchester Green and Market Square by calling Barbara Williamson at 804/644-0546, x.23. . Hampton Neighborhood Commission to hold “first ever” neighborhood tours as part of May 3rd opening of city’s new History Museum. . . Mayor, Police Chief and Town Council collect more than 200 bags of trash in Pulaski’s annual spring clean-up. . . HUD Richmond okays 218-unit, \$21.9 million Rosemary Ridge complex in Manassas. . . Details on registering for 6th annual HUD Secretary’s Award for Excellence in the design of affordable homeownership projects now area available at http://www.huduser.org/Research/BALA_2003_brouchure.pdf

DON’T FORGET!

The application deadline for HUD’s fiscal year 2003 Rural and Economic Development program is May 27th, 2003